

Start of Ludwig Strauss Collection AR 11765

Sys #: 000364654

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

Center for Jewish History 15 West 16th Street New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400 Fax: (212) 988-1305 Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org URL: http://www.lbi.org

Ludwig Strauss Collection AR 11765 1/1 1941-1945

#36

Archives

Curriculum Vitae of the former high school teacher Ludwig Strauss Presently at Camp Recebedou (near Toulouse), France Pavilion 2

I was born on October 30th, 1855 in Niederkirchen (Palatinate) and am almost 86 years old. My wife was born on December 16th, 1856, and will be 85 on December 16th, 1941. We both grew up in observant Jewish families in the country. I attended a commercial high school, the royal preparatory school and graduated from the Royal Teacher Training Seminary in 1874. In 1875, upon the invitation of the government in Speyer, I joined the faculty of the Baermann'sche Realschule (High School for Boy) in Bad Duerkheim, where I served as a teacher, without interruption, for 45 years until my retirement in 1920. Besides my teaching activities, I devoted 30 years to the town of Bad Duerkheim in various other ways. I was active in the administration of the respected and well-off Jewish community of Bad Duerkheim, served as president of the rabbinical district Duerkheim-Ludwigshafen and as treasurer of the Association of Jewish Congregations in the Palatinate. I was elected to the Bad Duerkheim City Council by the entire citizenry for 18 years and served in the administration of various scientific, social and musical associations. My philanthropic activities and humane attitude are amply demonstrated by the fact, I believe, that I served as Grand Master of the Haardt Lodge of the Odd Fellows and was the designated Grand Representative of the district Grand Lodge of Wuerttemberg. My wife and I would be only to happy to find a new home in America and to spend the last years of our lives there in peace and quiet. September 2nd, 1941 - Recebedou

Loomallund Indwig Frank g. J. im Camp son Récébédou près Toulouse) Tavillon 2. Inf bin rm 30. Oktober 1855 gr Niederkirchen / Half / yabonn, Kafa elfo finda im 36. Enbangrefra. Minna Twin off rim 16 Jagamon 1856 yaborn, wind vella summintel sem 16. Ingambar 1941 if 85. Labardyaho sollandan Frin bain Jankinga Obant - Rivelphala Shir Ryl. This. Jernendanfila mm ubloksing in in Frefra 1874 tres Ryl. Enfrantaminuer. And Haranlalling fan Enginning ge Greget true if im Frefa 1875 in da stage Rollarin An Barmamischen Party John Rombanfyala for Dad Prikheim nin, dan if minuterbrown 45 trefra findring best on mainer Panfionianing im telas 1920 vell Baullafran venga = forta. Madru minum Jefaliffan Filippast Hommer in in An Dort Bad Dirkheim nima den Granda Totalighait in vianta

Handliffind mysfoeldan 30 Forfor fin laited mor balwants in sin Fad Dirkheim Si Rubbinatobazinta Girkheim- Lunwackafen m unit on all Chrisquistant Partounda Sar smithan Chamimhan La Chief Valatinal 1. 48 Hopen firming hels of non har gapamban Durgarhhadt ign= Swift, im Car now Red Bar Dickein I laikala mapan ifran millanthalting vigita mm mikalififan Hunnina . Fin manna ofilanthropitala mantiandamindlish if moran Jufapapa finding web John = million Gran Haardt = Loge In Odd-Fellows timping mm our litarités - Otro/Bloyn won Wirdsambang rels Ofroke Engwishnstrus vengalorda. This blink, minna otaku inno in some on brighings, imana inin in Church Look from underich froming man hout impartaban (in Rifa int trintan) Ban Rombin 2. 9. 1941 - Récébedou

Camp de Vecebedou (pres Toulouse) Alarka Franchy gonas Savillon 2 New York. Most lyman Luck and is its Labordaning of his growth of the property of the pr

impor Rinhor Ella mid Ir harl find mid Mague sont forest for sont for the forest for the stand of the sont of the sont for the forest in the south of the sont of the sont for the south for the sont for the south min much town Than profiling finger Mangred, Frankin Dannheifser, Paul Werller und alla Salamian um Trannon und sont= yanganan tiryin. Mg. How innigen Mountaw issunda ifming im Billa va In Odd - tellow = Garan inn va dafna Grofologan Mashington. Lib fanta faba if krimanlai Lapfnin while Mit bothen Surphilling in mmt dar Harfifaving immorbriefligar frammiffull mm Rancinumfair Fry Jahanna Ludwig Naus. Camp de Récébédou (près Toulouse) Savillon 2.

Camp in Recebedou (near Toulouse) Pavilion 2 Aug. 12, 1941

Esteemed Family Mr. Walter Jonas New York

After a long pause, finally a sign of life which you, the Walter Jonas family, are getting from your loyal former teacher, co-religionist and neighbor Ludwig Strauss. I owe the fact that this letter is being written to the American Friends in Marseille who forwarded a gift of 215 Francs to me and informed me, following my inquiry of a couple of weeks ago, that you, my dear friend, were the source of the gift. I wish to thank you, dear Walter Jonas and family, from the bottom of my heart for the gift! It pains me to tell you that today the two of us, my wife and I, count among the poor people who have to depend on the support of charitable human beings, friends and acquaintances. My beautiful house in Bad Duerkheim became the property of the town of Bad Duerkheim for the price of MI 1,000. However, I have not seen a penny of it. My retirement benefits stopped in October of the previous year, and rent payments for my properties are two years overdue. You can understand the lamentable situation we find ourselves in. The last part of our lives is filled with deprivation and need. If my friends, my pupils in the USA, wish to show their compassion, their loyalty and gratitude, they have sufficient reason and plenty of opportunity these days. I don't doubt that you, my dear friend, will be supportive of us in this situation.

What else can I tell you, my friend? My wife and I have kept our most valuable treasure, our health, despite the poor nutrition and the disadvantages of climate and weather. On Aug. 20th of last year, my wife and I celebrated our diamond (60 years) wedding anniversary, a rare joy in the lifetime of a human being. I had to spend the day in bed – pneumonia – the first serious illness in my life. The doctor did not want to permit visits, but I insisted that all those who wanted to could enter the room, shake my hand and congratulate me. We have now spent ten months in the camps of Gurs and Recebedou (both in southern France). Our children Elsa and son Dr. Karl with all of theirs' as well as all the Israelites from Baden and the Palatinate are our companions-in-suffering. It is our hope that we may trust in your continued empathy and kindness. Convey my greetings to your dear wife, your wonderful son Manfred, the family Dannheisser, Paul Weiller as well as all acquaintances and friends from the old days.

P.S. Several months ago I turned to the Odd-Fellow-Order and their Lodge in Washington for help. I have received no answer as yet.

With sincere greetings and the assurance of everlasting friendship and closeness,

Your loyal Ludwig Strauss

Camp de Recebedou (near Toulouse), Pavilion 2

Grifan Ini min Hran Islammen.

med in hour Dannheiste t

mod frinn Tofun, orbylanifun

Fran Somhartiyan mod fanin

Firmilia Keke mod from to nea. Mana money files of Manal. Awn mamam Winn Famous Fyrming noforthun from minn Paufon Informa fin fif veld minen afamille van lifelan mannen ven men manualaffin fin manua vontigen Dollars zu ba van Lang Afriche mina baffing Inbanbuband an-un worken Aban of towards and écrit en allemand. J. Grann Halten Fonas 228 Andubon toe New York. UIt.

ylunfa Lol inn tunfamia manne mylindingen Glunbanky milfan, Mid sin butun (fyn tau,
vella frammed yn ffirsta nen Har Arminon or birmonnan Lurvig Naufo Sira ma impara Rimana. Camp de Recebedou (près Foulouse) Pavillon 2

Mr. Walter Jonas 228 Audubon Ave. Manhattan, NY

(the stamp on the envelope indicates in French that the mail was censored by Camp Security)

Convey my greetings to your father-in-law Mr. Dannheisser and his sons, also your brother Edgar and his family, Kehr and wife Lena. What you are writing about your son Manfred brings me great happiness Back in our old home, the lovely and courageous boy was a joy to have around. My present state of poverty which is not of my own making - I did not receive a penny for my house and my pension is suspended - forces me to speak openly. I am without financial means. I am appealing to you as a former pupil of mine, take care of me and ask friends of mine who are there to send me a few dollars. I had every right to expect a more comfortable old age. But I am bearing the same lot as thousands of my unhappy co-religionists.

Best regards to all friends and to your very dear wife, your loyal

Ludwig Strauss

Best regards from my wife and our children.

Page I was lost

Page 2

......two policemen and one official came to search the house for weapons. Half an hour later, two officials came and took away our car, then the windows of our store were smashed, and the highlight came at 11 a.m. when a car carrying twenty men arrived; they demolished the furniture, porcelains, pictures etc. in our apartment. But that was not enough; three hours later, the gang (illegible) returned and destroyed everything that had been left undamaged. Now I began to fear for my life; I took my pocketbook and went to the train station, accompanied by forty Hitter Youths who followed me to the station and told the supervisor not to sell a train ticket to the Jewess. Half out of my mind, I arrived in Mannheim in the evening. When all Jews had to leave the Palatinate (Pfalz), I moved in with relatives in Mannheim. After about 16 days, my husband returned from Dachau, a broken man. We lived in Mannheim for two years.

Page 3

In the course of the second year, we took my elderly parents to live with us. We were given a monthly amount from our confiscated account which had been placed in escrow.

On Oct. 22, at 8 o'clock in the morning, the police awakened us; they were shouting "Get yourselves and your parents ready, you have to leave Mannheim in one hour; everybody is permitted one piece of hand luggage with necessities and warm blankets. – My father was 86 years old and my mether 85; and so we packed four valises with blankets, which my husband and I took turns carrying. – The following day, after a horrible night spent squeezed together on the floor in a school building, we were loaded onto a train. Nobody knew where the journey was going, because we did not see any railroad personnel. Soon, however, we could see that we were going to France, and after two nights and days we arrived in Camp de Gurs, a camp in hell; the ground was so wet that one often waded up to the hips in filth.

Page 4

The camp was not at all prepared for the arrival of 8000 Jews from Baden and the Palatinate, and we had to arrange ourselves on straw on the floor, always in fear that rats would jump over our faces. - Immediately in the first few days, a serious disease, dysentery, broke out, and 15-25 people died every day. Gurs, at that time, had a population of 20,000 Jews living in various <a href="https://docs.purple.com/

Page 5

we were sent to Recebedou - a camp whose barracks were in a better state of repair- because the housing would supposedly be an improvement for my elderly parents. - The food was somewhat better, not to speak of the sand which we had to eat along with the various vegetables. My father died in this camp within four days of cold and hunger, my mother followed him six months later after a long illness. -Two years later, my husband and I were transferred to Verdun (? Dept. Tarn-et-Garonne), a small horrible camp with barracks, three-tiered wooden bunks, heavily guarded, most people in fested with lice.

2) From here, my husband and 100 comrades-in-misery were deported to Poland, and never again was anything heard from them. + There I cleaned vegetables during the day so I could give my husband the plate of soup we were paid for the work. In March 1943, we were transferred to Masseube, a small camp with 15 barracks in the Departement Gers.

Page 6

Here, too, things were not good in the beginning, but then we got a humane, friendly administrator under whose leadership life was made tolerable. And after the liberation of France, we were permitted, for the first time in years, to leave the camp and to move about freely.—At this time, a Jewish organization took care of us and provided housing for the survivors in different buildings; only 700 Jews had survived of the 8000 who had been deported to France on Oct. 22, 1940. Along with 100 others, I had the good fortune to be sent to a small seaside town in southern France; we were housed in a spacious hotel, with nice rooms, a bath, a dining room. The food was very good, and the administration showed full understanding for the

psyche of the elderly people who had experienced so much pain and deprivation. Again, as in the other camp, I helped in caring for my companions.

For the past three months I have lived

Page 7

in America and I hope to be able to spend a few quiet and peaceful days here in order to put behind me the suffering and sadness of the past fifteen years since Hitler came to power; and to be able to forget. Signed G.A.

Note: in the original, Mrs. Abraham consistently refers to the deportees as people, then changes it to Jews.

Ramon & Kilmatter i ein Bruite. Circo Sturing In and mach Massiers Omenfaller Good Printe Spatter hallel & Bean ten winder tota ab, warm whidow one forcher in were the Juckapte, governmetters in al Harelinde in a from 11 Uhr time for met 26 Manner 202 in demalicite Nans in f nicht fander advict unif i Ald. in tunit val Ille an latter . time O. A. no write of Sal Ribner ! mulder when the Handaly in wind Widnes & affects ve to Hitlerings Si mit Anis gine Bahalog zawal viere Butterer saule, Geld, Lie Dar Jinde Rein Bally. Po pann hall welling it who theres in Manufacciatan taffren alla Polina ree Plan verlassen ministen, telling a formal truming to be there was office in Then hair levil Main Mann kam La labler son & Jahl in Mancheur

Sur 2. Take usun inf mine between free files of mile o wir bekannen man att. . In theling and statemen On year. munder Presignithaller. Am 32 Okt. Markerens & Uhr kann in Polizer mits der Rube, Machen Lie the Petern tich forby, 200 menmassen elavilet of fir forher Jami manuel Backace . - Migui Vatel was 186 Jahre & mine Hitter 85 - Ja yans mi 14 Raffe mil inten. or decen Martin It of abrech land her day tack a land tack and scratner ding front and her tri/36 asker himmer Philaden minden wir am nachter Carry in Minixon fire weelarker niemand white wohite one Reise yeke from their to yyou tarnel was no school Duli jedail sah hran dass et hank-English flamonten wir gen Samp mits marach Buren stidans, man off his zin den Right man all bei

Part war man and satisfied to Blade The wir Runger ten ait Shah dist There to fee a feer, in its May Il Intress Salo ist Hatten wented is the inchan Jes Ater fyranguit. - Fleich ich den witer to your the wine migh Kand heit wies, the winder of h. Rich & tay Justen 15-25 Personen. In Figo 1 trees 36 Janes Rat 20000 Perthouse in I whilede the flats verteill ran Blanke 100 former fatore ?. van Palizei man to be the friend fly of the Cathe Des Manyout Milland, Allends yalor Polyner, wer now her sie Halle Substin the water do hack dur die muly of la martin. Took franch wither Police to the Co of the & Sie dem, Caro min hier All the surface, where and a lett min Set an fallen & kamen alit trang 5 manage terble ben in time sande man ins, regen medica besiever anyablish untito if meme

be Laylow Plan mont Recelections ein Rayor And in Inche In Baracheer maren des Peren ma trad dessen, aboyatelen san den Par Do da verich. Gentilae, den mie mitessen mitellen So heren Ray frank men totter om Kalle in Aline you would to Tayse I monall langue but hard top your thick of mil me was topland kind of mil me was 12 falses were of the and comment of the server Bart Prese, mat Baracher, 3 Hal forthefree Interest in the forest bo graffe made Link bulant The And de mein Mann must Palen in nie hatte man le van einen rvicar etica operat, Tof fitte cont Yayi store Ferrette in meinen Mine on vir for sinder Albeit erholter In masser de vir som vir ment planner Longe mi & 15 Rarrchin in Repartement Gers, - And

6- Cing face your inen mencher & Greined Duckter Chairm unter Vaceria Lander of min ein echology Inter filmer Builten in all is I then Frankicish enfal to partie, mis mus Sahren zum enten for bringer - tim nahmen de. 62 reduction on 166 france in Harrier Hatel nich hilling Line Bio. Speiser de. Lich de Bekartiging was the airs tand of is. In history hatte fin welles to Thomas fur in the land on allen Levite. De for rich Leid & Gulbeling to the toun Letten Tric plan in den andem Karen unbillete ich dant in der butterin 4 Himmin Manning Den 3. Peil's manater bin your un

in American harle hier wind in the file file wellingen in him in in dinas den it dun Marketingrest of Heller etrids 184,-

Meine L'um allo! Leve I beiden exprender sens sole, in gradulinea ori of 1. heleben her is aum transcute, tas ist took win relas, to had me ji santre to drag soluid in, must be dersekannet wint; his Haughouse bro Mershold grown. His tratter wint sole well. I. trellen in trough solice when we find any I. hunden the market which exceedes Sessell.

itel rough more things and the world to me a proster. i with with un bunden to went and liberto field faver buted to was abelled man with and skin for the form on a sellen. change their land - or to 3 of showing that or fifted to hale terms and in they have but the wife out of the stand of the said and they are the said out out a. I which red Tape his delirable, the see ist hat god properties. hoy would such in Frankrick. In all let a man in se borners. : trackless the result. Toucher fige with and which wis is seminant top to Within wife i como a mine Mertin terresta. Meine Ble iden. Wie jeht es kuch hoffend lich gut, word on were cook whiles how. Was nacht is werner, finter min into: Smitht out work in sild tom buto! das bufolem Bile . for will young, someon wein Aum fill ich th Shery's machen les que, que prientage trinse an Heing hen in aente coille, while its Eure Heigh - h in h wish wishears nowen hally chank have him to the far it accommended is rectivate lies with Clases and des . 6 und beside fin una Bumi sugar in resource tendanching is to her in many in soine En Ros abilde

wir & firen ! Lief w 29 & bohelan dem wie ha berorge darum Um so griper war unser Friende heile als wir den Frief geleren hahen Dank dem Memadle Heine Lieben frendentranen halen wir vergozien über Euren vo herstich gerhriebenen Brief- Vor allen grapilinen wir Dir I Juliken au Deinem großen Egloge-You wir sind doby Garang in wolch hurzer heit fait Du is I fulture so week gelt arther more Gill being weeken. and Sir le Hennerlein You le Arm den Der Karner auch Dir le Hennerlein You le Arm den Der Karner mit Berkt auf Deinen L. Harm u. John Holy re der Allmärklige erhalle Eurh nur gerund in Herainmighen Dank fier die Bilder vind sely offen in ble Trende danieler karm ich garnish angrune I Edith right unberufen rete gut aus ebens auch the site Jat. zu rehen I. Yelshen richt auch unberufen erholt . w. hal I Wennerlein auch in der Tal rolch volles Grinn In I. Annohen Sist die Alle Du whreibel Phylici habl mark hein graves Haar das freud nus rehr. Gus Ware hall rich- Es but um rehr Laid day dals Herr Bieber u Herr Klein rolchen Unfall hallen, haffentlish geht is beiden wuder bald ganz gut was nir vom gantin Henten winsken 8. Hars hal on Yank Martha gerstricten to dem a ist rear gehrinkt von Dir north heine. Leile xu erhallen he es bitle. In himmy rie ja heir ist sie aufgeregt dann vergigel sie

18181 522 Muse tutient and him Habel hall the webselich whalter; as ist vieles gour andust be durale seas insue the wandering litiffly or wit than due at Lie Park ish jo win wheding &, was marke den gring Selbstoowings; sel Ram when you will und, want mines with the restalges in wines disease duty hierase wheiter theibt often would ar ila, and were Freient Much war hab win geschichen: auprochen sub in we rie kimmen. Paul hat wich whan sioned in weiner waier boling berieble, a hicket set daninter dan sein Mider with ocher Hs. felicith fiel wiew ilder, see the imgrage reid. I been which wie dark wie Ar Cd was him. with rate does and lange wie tooch or die kunte wachends de Gut the Meine relesieben the Raun bind garment pager wie got in mid whe know Bill gefeit hele to goalstice der to filele in l. Harrie to frien bofolgen Mogel He mid weiter komplikt den form begleicht. Gene Work of Amulen buten mus alle 30 woll getter, Die Sebristsdaten von Faule fochs blever job leider richt erfahrer. Filreiht hald wiede i. bleitt fire leade innight gegrasst a jektigst in Liebe bive Putt. Hat old hir Bi som

when and we were whelm . Wir and for D. years . Then whelm . Rebicion hat more Royal . Her vami. Unsel Kinder sind nativistic and a Alter selbstverstandlich ist, Helpe ist so jouts wie alla Andly. Des Bed grift little on torse with in m shorters. Die le human und strang Heigh Hick and huran gebutatoge, alles just with me nile grafer than Meino liken tanke buch allow rell heirlich for ber & turnste, un an stine mer in refulling gheer. For haben but az iget orleby him auch while linearte wonter Nous unen en l' haven unen ferten Hortflind in House Tallelland for men thely a cri Pan relant je arbeille The rochiche Hamis) own Truylein 20. von hu I selve wie alle in lustif, in the few sends as alles blues. mithe, mi laft, Veir, Housever so it is viewhe were sys it iles mitalies an rolleby him faun whom selv sufrieres. his das I Kilistere Parles eine grafs thike Hodge int sillen hinkling un Danchall workholming scholer zur Luite un is mylein int she flespig fir stein letter kamme en glaculeur ster es tiget kamme is mild glanken ya to paper for the what he west mil sheallen hafen wissen. sint beide auch hieblij eranseur. The les und encementaleit son regione Shoulled will is could lernen in tal testa muir where tonen withfulls. Mustas have in mi handantilus miet men very vance lesunt virt. Hes orane Kint is ble to Elwesta, Julha er allein ja sir well sao ture. Hurbert wind receded, ship is 150 4 Mars henils deplacable tron 60 mm set tot who is ran the his tem geringer to twent but the ha hil auch whom he happen sy remainmenter to Popular beforemence, to hundres welling bruft it his Tauk Bortha trigetornic their and liber, tim Bielefel their in Remains sis fail royd Jahren her Mann rulorung er joht its policier at shiper. not whideful his any loudendhour below tuden such have frie must don't neser filed former seld ville runs - 12/2 to l. burken or flufry walled hum her lent keder, kun when the & Anjo mund proces, wer worken Hund hugen! I House for it manfal work when air milities herestlicensen besuchet in run work his ishnice! I sucher it gladle ingles hat her kan-Heren will clikly farken out the george or heatell envised till hat a weekt til adringster sachegorither is to their takelt Might bitungen in ellet take. Non I Sunden in l'Araciel grabuliere sit bench rich herrich un Scheer belge. selles tall voormake it. Eint Mestel mid some a mise is were allea my and seint met white was met a serie allea my and have a further a further and the series are the series and the series are the series and the series and the series are the seri ruhl hablist gon till rough There when the Belt - Nortcal den by ruhl augenden a seed alle rety trad getrift our aus allen he felle

All gulgen Saldigen Frieden in vin finden Ein glurklicher neces Hah Schen Comein Mum heatigen Hamily per bold But alles alles Comein Mum heatigen Hamily all historing it as for all filles in an freuer liebt Eart Earth Ellen in Copyler gifting opening the Meyorkoff it Helly Jamill Mein a field of pain for garden in Meyorkoff it Helly Jamill Mein a field from for garden for garden for manchen and balling to generate for franch for minimum and balling to generate for franch for minimum and balling to generate for franch for minimum and balling to the server for the minimum and balling to the server for the minimum and balling to the server for the server sfimmel sein 4 H whreike was all where Eugen so herrich ger grafelines wir Die & Gele you win you do not have and will have get good and affer to plan to good and the surgenia. Turk and Durum Der kilm anlige schalle nus weiter met solch Vorfur & Ma Herzinnighen Fank for this From de danieler I Edolk richt unberufen rehr Diellien & Julian re hal I Whenerdin as THE CONTRACT PLE of the Board of



End of Ludwig Strauss Collection